

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Field *et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0167218) ("Field") in view of Seaman (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0098327).

Claims 1-13, 15-17, and 21-24 have been amended and claims 25-30 are new. Claims 25-30 are based upon the subject matter in claims 1-11. Additional exemplary support for the amendments to claims 1-13, 15-17, and 21-24 and new claims 25-30 can be found in the originally-filed specification on page 3, line 17 – page 4, line 7; page 4, line 20 – page 5, line 12; and page 7, lines 3-5. No new matter has been added.

Interview Summary

The undersigned representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the Examiner Interview on October 30, 2006. At the Interview, the Examiner indicated that the rejections to claims 1 and 12 under §§ 101 and 112 can be overcome with amendments similar to those presented herein. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that the rejection to claims 1-24 under § 103 would be rendered moot in view of the amendments.

Rejection of Claims 1-24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-13, 15-17, and 21-24 have been amended, as discussed in the Examiner Interview, to more clearly show that the invention is useful, concrete, and tangible. The Examiner acknowledged that amendments of this nature would overcome this rejection.

For at least the reasons stated above, the undersigned respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable in view of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Further, dependent claims 2-11 and 13-24 are also allowable as they contain the limitations of the claims on

which they depend. Therefore, the undersigned representative respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Rejection of Claims 1-24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-13, 15-17, and 21-24 have been amended, as discussed in the Examiner Interview, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The Examiner acknowledged that amendments of this nature would overcome this rejection.

For at least the reasons stated above, the undersigned respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable in view of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Further, dependent claims 2-11 and 13-24 are also allowable as they contain the limitations of the claims on which they depend. Therefore, the undersigned representative respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejection of Claims 1-24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

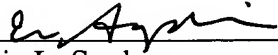
Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Field in view of Seaman. The Examiner indicated in the Interview that the amendments herein would render this rejection moot. Therefore, the undersigned representative respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

The undersigned representative respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution might be advanced by discussing the application with the undersigned representative, in person or over the telephone, we welcome the opportunity to do so. In addition, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to Deposit Account No. 501458.

Respectfully submitted,

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